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Justice Assistance News

Active Patrol Strategy Reduces Robbery Rates

Cities where police departments employ an "aggressive" patrol strategy—making frequent "street stops" or issuing an above-average number of traffic tickets—generally have a higher arrest rate and lower crime rate for robberies than cities with a "passive" patrol strategy, according to a study released today.

The study also said the more active technique can be accomplished simply by improved management.

The findings come from "The Effect of the Police on Crime," a study that examined the effect of police practices on robbery in 35 large American cities. It was conducted by The Urban Institute, between 1976 and 1978, under a \$120,000 grant from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The authors are James Q. Wilson, a professor of government at Harvard University, and Barbara Boland, a senior research associate at the Institute for Law and Social Research, Washington, D.C.

Two Extremes

In defining "aggressive" and "passive" patrol strategies, the study said: "Police may affect crime rates less by how many of them are on patrol than by what they do there. What they do includes many things in addition to, and perhaps more important than, making arrests."

"Though patrol behavior is complex, we can distinguish two extreme strategies: 'aggressive' and 'passive.' By an aggressive strategy we do not mean

that the officer is hostile or harsh, but rather that he maximizes the number of interventions in and observations of the community.

"An officer follows a passive strategy when he rarely stops motor vehicles to issue citations for moving violations or to check for stolen cars or wanted fugitives, rarely stops and questions suspicious persons, and does not employ 'decoy' or stakeout procedures in areas with high crime rates. When an officer acts in the opposite manner, he is employing an 'aggressive' strategy."

While the study lists the 35 cities

from which the data was collected, it does not rate any police department as passive or aggressive.

The study said that cities with higher arrest rates (per number of offenses reported) have lower crime rates.

Resolves Conflict

Dr. Richard Rau, the NIJ project monitor of the study, said the main purpose of the study was to resolve a continuing conflict among law enforcement executives over whether the aggressive or passive patrol approach was more effective.

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Cities where police issue an above-average number of traffic citations may be safer.

May 11-17 Is National Police Week

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ...

PROMIS: An Information Tool For The Entire System

This month's guest columnist is Nolan Brown, district attorney for Jefferson County, Colorado, who spearheaded the implementation of a regional Prosecutors' Management Information System (PROMIS) in Colorado. The computerized information system serves the district attorneys' offices in nine judicial districts with an estimated population of 1.5 million. The regional system—the first of its kind in the nation—was financed by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 1979.

For too long, criminal justice agencies have operated on the basis of platitudes and axioms, without accountability, because information has not been available to measure their impact on crime.

Police, for example, traditionally measure their effectiveness in terms of caseload carried and crimes cleared by arrest—the number of arrests made in relation to the number of crimes reported. Seldom are arrests measured in relation to prosecutable filings. Nor have data been available to measure caseloads in terms of cases solved with successful prosecutions. The police have generally determined the legal and factual sufficiency of evidence before deciding to submit a case to the prosecutor, and prosecutors have been too willing to allow the police to assume these responsibilities.

Prosecutors have similar problems. Our measures of effectiveness have been caseload carried and cases filed compared with conviction rate. We have virtually absolute discretion regarding the filing or rejection of charges, level of crime to be prosecuted, and type of disposition to be made. There has been no way to distinguish poor police investigations from poor prosecutor screenings. There has been no way to measure actual prosecution results, screening results, trial effectiveness (including those cases that need to be tried even though they are likely to be lost), or the validity of case dispositions.

The courts' measures of effectiveness have been caseload carried and sentences imposed. Their caseload has not been routinely measured in terms of the seriousness or complexity of charges, actual trials, or effectiveness in handling a trial load. Nor are sentences distinguished on the basis of those that resulted in incarceration and those that ended in probation.

Thus, our measures of effectiveness have evolved largely from an information void. They are designed to make each segment look effective, without ever examining its ultimate impact upon crime or justice. We have lacked the information necessary to question whether our combined efforts are having any impact at all, or whether we could act by more effective and efficient means.

For a significant majority of Colorado's population, lack of information on the operation of our criminal justice system is about to become a thing of the past. Nine judicial districts have joined forces to implement a regional PROMIS system—the first of its kind in the nation—to manage their adult and juvenile caseloads.

Regional PROMIS, interfaced with the state Uniform Crime Report System, gives us the capability to observe our entire criminal justice system. We can determine how many of what type of crimes were committed in each jurisdiction and within the region; how many people were arrested for those crimes; how many of those cases were presented for filing; how many were accepted or rejected at filing; the reasons for rejections; what happened to each case or individual involved; how



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Jailing Youths With Adults 'A National Catastrophe'

Calling the current practice in some states of jailing youths with adult offenders "a national catastrophe," Deputy Attorney General Charles B. Renfrew urged Congress to "absolutely prohibit the detention or confinement of juveniles in any institution in which adults, whether convicted or awaiting trial, are confined."

Testifying before the House Committee on Education and Labor's Subcommittee on Human Resources, he praised the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 for the progress to date in the removal of juveniles from adult jails and lock-ups.

Not Enough Done

But he said that not enough has been done to safeguard the special needs of children.

"It has been conservatively estimated that 500,000 juveniles are admitted to adult jails and lock-ups each year," the deputy attorney general stated, further explaining that 88 percent of those were charged with minor or property crimes, 18 percent with offenses that would not be criminal if they were adults, while 4 percent of those detained were not charged with any crime.

Sex Victims

Mr. Renfrew said youths jailed with adults often are victims of physical and sexual abuse, and can

suffer long-term emotional and mental harm.

The suicide rate for juveniles incarcerated in adult facilities was seven times higher than for those in secure juvenile detention institutions, he said.

The subcommittee is currently holding hearings on the reauthorization of the 1974 act, which expires Oct. 1, 1980.

Progress Made

"The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act is change-oriented and has had an impact far greater than many other government programs of comparable size. Since 1974, great progress has been made in removing status offenders and nonoffenders such as dependent and neglected youth from juvenile detention and correction facilities," Mr. Renfrew said.

In reauthorizing the legislation, Mr. Renfrew recommended that Congress give states and territories participating in the act an additional five years to remove all juveniles, including those guilty of serious crimes, from adult jails and lock-ups. Serious juvenile offenders should be detained, he said, but in juvenile facilities.

Mr. Renfrew said other criminal justice officials, including the attorney general and the administrator for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, supported his suggestions.

Bayh Says Focus Programs On Violent Juveniles

Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) has proposed legislation relating to violent crimes committed by juveniles and addressing problems posed by status offenders and non-offenders such as runaways, neglected, or abused children.

"The amendments to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act which I have proposed today are practical steps to stem the tide and check the growing violent crime in our society," Sen. Bayh said.



Sen. Bayh

"This will provide a new focus for using crime control funds for programs aimed at curbing violent crimes committed by young people, especially those repeat offenders who so often terrorize neighborhoods. Moreover, this bill will make these juvenile justice programs even more effective than they already are."

The Bayh bill would extend the program for five years and delegate final authority to the administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Sen. Bayh has served for seven years as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency, and was the chief architect of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

Around the Nation . . .

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.—Elderly persons living in cities are so afraid of teenagers many remain indoors after schools let out at 3 p.m., according to a study by Geoffrey Godbey of Pennsylvania State University. The study said 88 percent of elderly persons surveyed nationwide said they cross the street or change their direction of travel just to avoid young people. Some 66 percent of those surveyed said fear of crime has greatly affected their use of facilities designed for the elderly, such as senior citizens centers and parks. Nine percent of the elderly in the study had actually been crime victims within the 12 months before the survey. ■

Slain Police Officers Honored

The week of May 11 through May 17 has been designated as National Police Week, with May 15 set aside as Police Officer Memorial Day—when law enforcement personnel will honor fellow officers killed in the line of duty.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the nation plan to commemorate the day with special memorial services, wreath laying ceremonies, and appropriate civic activities to honor those who died in service to their community.

In 1979, 105 local, county, state, and federal law enforcement officers were killed, a 13 percent increase from 93 in 1978, the FBI reported.

The FBI said firearms were used in 95 percent of the slayings. Four officials were slain with knives or other cutting instruments, and one was killed by a bomb.

Cooperation Needed, President Says

Coordination. Cooperation. Consultation. Communication.

These, said President Carter, are crucial elements in effective law enforcement, and he said they are elements not always present among federal, state and local criminal justice organizations.

"When I was governor (of Georgia)," the President told a group of 70 top law enforcement officials, "I was quite often disconcerted at the lack . . . of cooperation among the different law enforcement agencies with which I had to deal . . . (they) quite often were too preoccupied with the preservation of their own independence and autonomy, and sometimes the protection of their own law enforcement turf, and not adequately preoccupied with how they could cooperate with other law enforcement agencies in enforcing the law . . ."

The President's comments, made at the White House, came after an all-day meeting on arson and heroin trafficking, hosted by Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti and Deputy Attorney General Charles B. Renfrew. Those attending included state attorneys

general, federal, state and local prosecutors, and police executives.

President Carter pledged to support the law enforcement officials in the enforcement of the law, saying he recognized "the difficulties that you face in a rapidly changing world."

"Let me say I have a deep appreciation for what you are accomplishing, a realization of the difficulties of law enforcement in our societal structure, and I want to let you know that you've got my absolute backing, my absolute support, and my deep desire for a closer coordination and cooperation with you in the future to protect our people . . .," the President said.

Joining Mr. Civiletti and Judge Renfrew at the seminar were FBI Director William H. Webster; G. R. Dickerson, director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Gordon Vickery, administrator, U.S. Fire Administration; Homer F. Broome, Jr., acting administrator, LEAA; Henry S. Dogin, acting director, OJARS; Philip B. Heymann, assistant attorney general, Criminal Division; and Peter B. Bensinger, administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration. ■

Police Accreditation Financing Will Continue

Acting Administrator Homer F. Broome, Jr., has pledged that LEAA will continue financing the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies through the next two years despite possible funding cuts that would eliminate the agency.

"I promise you that LEAA will keep its commitment to you and will keep this commission alive through October 1, 1982," Mr. Broome said at a recent congressional meeting.

The commission, established in 1979, is designed to develop standards for law enforcement agencies and to accredit those that meet them.

Accreditation program was long overdue.

"We've had police standards on the books since 1967," he said. "It's time we cleaned them up, coupled them with newly-developed standards, and put them into effect."

An initial grant of \$1.5 million to conduct the project was awarded to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriffs' Association, and Police Executive Research Forum. It has been used to hire staff, establish standards, and to begin accrediting agencies.

in law enforcement. Because this opinion is widely shared, I'm confident that when the accreditation process has been established, law enforcement agencies will participate," Mr. Broome said.

Several attempts to develop standards for police and law enforcement operations have been undertaken by several groups over the last several years, but they failed to develop a certifying or accrediting process, an important addition to the current effort.

The earlier findings will be used by the commission in its work to establish the commission, to review the standards, and to accredit bodies at the federal, state, and local levels.

Many Computer Crimes Not Reported

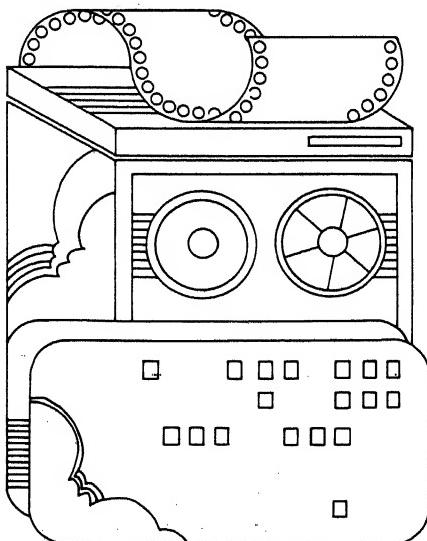
When a computer consultant was arrested for the theft of \$10.2 million from a Los Angeles bank, bank officials minimized the crime, denying that the theft involved a computer.

In England, a company programmer stole large amounts of money over several years then, when discovered, blackmailed company officials into giving him a good recommendation. He then committed the same theft against his new employer.

These examples of how some companies fail to pursue computer fraud are provided in "The Investigation of Computer Crime," one of a series of guides for police and prosecutors prepared by the Battelle National Center on White-Collar Crime, Seattle, Washington. The guides and training programs conducted by the center are supported by an LEAA grant of \$199,000.

The examples in the guide highlight "the widely quoted statistics that only 14 percent of all computer crime is reported to police," according to the author, Jay J. Becker, who heads the antitrust section of the Los Angeles County, California, District Attorney's Office and directs the National Center for Computer Crime Data.

"Some business people are afraid they'll lose face or damage their companies' reputations if people find out that a computer crime has been committed," Mr. Becker said. "Some may feel that the criminal justice system can't cope properly with this kind of crime so why bother to report it."



However, Mr. Becker said many law enforcement agencies have improved their ability to investigate such crimes and prosecutors are fast gaining experience in trying them, despite a lack of case law in the field.

He concluded this after interviewing several dozen trial attorneys, law enforcement officials, computer specialists, accountants, and others who have been involved in computer crime cases to provide a series of "do's" and "don't's" for police and prosecutors. For example, the guide says:

—The investigator should exercise greater care than usual in preparing a search warrant for computer crime because this is a technical area often new to judges. The detailed affidavit should cover all the "technical bases" but should be comprehensible to someone unfamiliar with computers.

—In making an emergency seizure of evidence, the investigator should exercise great restraint. "It is possible to hurt the investigation—not to mention the computer operation—by overhasty seizure of evidence," the guide points out. "Many computer systems are . . . always in operation. Simply stopping the machine might destroy evidence."

—Computer tapes are not necessarily distinguishable to the human eye. It is necessary to develop permanent marking systems to keep track of such evidence.

Evidence Differs

It is important to know precisely how a computer crime differs from another theft and how to cope with those differences, the guide says. The evidence, for example, is different, ranging from tapes to discs to documents. The volume can be enormous. For instance, according to the guide, there were 3,000 reels of tape involved in one particular case.

If the evidence is in the computer itself, the guide warns that law enforcement officials may have to establish an around-the-clock guard in the office of the victim-company to safeguard the evidence.

Mr. Becker estimates the average loss from crimes involving computers is about \$450,000 per instance compared with an average loss of \$9,000 from

bank robbery and \$19,000 for embezzlement.

"And that's just the tip of the iceberg," adds Mr. Becker, "because of under-reporting. Moreover, only one of 22,000 computer criminals goes to jail."

Increasing Problem

A colleague, Arthur del Negro, who heads the LEAA-supported Economic Crime Project conducted by the National District Attorneys' Association, sees computer fraud as an increasing problem.

"In terms of dollar vulnerability, I see it as the largest single source of concern to law enforcement agencies involved in fighting economic crimes," he said.

Copies of "The Investigation of Computer Crime" are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The stock number is 027-000-00897-6. The price is \$3.75 per copy, prepaid. ■

Police Patrols

(continued from page 1)

The study said, for example, that the patrol strategy adopted by a given police department often affects the robbery rate just by changing the probability that an arrest will be made.

If a criminal knows that the police are actively stopping suspicious persons and making field checks, or if he sees more police on patrol, he may not commit a robbery because he perceives that his chances of being caught are greater, the authors said. This perception by itself will often lower the crime rate in a given city or district.

Stressing that spending more money does not always mean better law enforcement, the study said this aim can often be accomplished by "having police organizations capable of devising and maintaining a personnel, incentive, and management system that delivers more law enforcement."

Copies of the study are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The stock number is 027-000-00874-7. The price is \$2.00 per copy, prepaid. ■

Twelve Days/Three Trials vs. One Day/One Trial

by Pamela Taylor

Dear Citizen: By the attached notice, you are summoned for jury duty in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

And so begins the letter that dispatches thousands of Washington, D.C., residents annually to serve for two weeks as jurors in the District's court of general jurisdiction.

The initial response from most of these citizens—and mine—was how to get excused from this two weeks “drudgery.”

Why do people—why did I—attempt to shirk the privilege and responsibility that comes with living in a free society? Probably, the answer lies in the traditional juror experience: wasted hours and days; irregular, often inflexible hours; weeks away from home or work; loss of income for some; and the waiting, sometimes never to serve as a juror.

It was this type of experience that led to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration's (LEAA) funding and championing of a national jury reform movement begun in the early seventies and peaking with today's trend toward variations on the One-Day/One-Trial jury system concept.

One-Day/One-Trial is in operation in approximately 20 jurisdictions in the country, including Washington's neighboring Montgomery County, Maryland. It works very simply: a juror is summoned for jury duty for the length of one day or one trial, if selected for a jury.

In the Montgomery County Circuit Court, the average jury trial is two

days. As a result there have been few, if any, complaints from the 60,000 county residents who have been summoned for jury service since that court changed its system in January 1979, according to James A. Pearson, Jr., the Montgomery County Circuit Court administrator.

One juror's reaction after serving for two days in Montgomery County:

“It was all over before my fascination with the process—the trial itself, the interaction of jurors, courthouse life—had begun to wear thin. As I drove home after my jury panel was excused, I found myself actually looking forward to my next summons. I had been pleasantly surprised. What's more, I found that my transformation from reluctant to proud juror was something I held in common with most of the other men and women on my jury.”

Served For 12 Days

I, too, underwent a transformation after my service in D.C. Superior Court last August. I served for a full 12 days (two weeks) and was selected for three juries. I felt proud and satisfied that I was fulfilling an essential civic responsibility and public duty as a citizen.

But quite frankly, I don't look forward to the possibility of being summoned again.

I—and most of the 600 to 700 jurors summoned to Superior Court with me—would gladly agree to serve on jury duty a day or two once every three years as in Montgomery County. But to be asked to serve 12 or more days at one stretch is too much.

Jury satisfaction is not the only plus under the One-Day/One-Trial system.

Montgomery County taxpayers saved as much as \$40,000 in jury fees alone last year.

A recent study evaluating the current District of Columbia Superior Court system found that there was a tendency to overcall prospective jurors, with little effective correlation between the number of jurors available and the number used. The result, according to the report, was an estimated cost of \$1.5 million in jury fees alone.

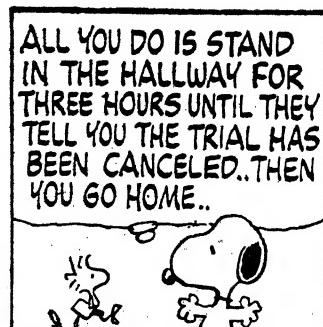
Jurors Called As Needed

One-Day/One-Trial systems use computer technology, which allows officials to call only the number of jurors needed on a given day. The study, “Report on the Petit Jury System of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia,” June 1979, said there were “conflicting opinions as to the capability of the D.C. Courthouse computer facilities to handle a One-Day/One-Trial jury system.” It did urge court officials to investigate the feasibility of converting the present system, and, at the very least, adopt immediately a juror term of one week—the recommended term in the model code of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts.

Another feature that distinguishes the two systems is the telephone call-in procedure. In Montgomery County, prospective jurors are given a special number to call the day before they are scheduled to find out if they are needed. If they are not, they are excused. There is no call-in system in the District. Whether needed or not, one must appear unless excused by the jury officer. A call-in system would allow jurors in Superior Court to report to their jobs or tend to other matters on days when they were not needed—a much more efficient and cost-effective system.

(continued on next page)

PEANUTS



Views In The News

NOTIFYING WITNESSES: "As advocates of a witness notification program here know all too well, the lack of testimony from those with knowledge of a crime can lead to dismissal of a case—letting an individual charged with a crime walk away without a trial. It is a disturbing, frustrating weakness in the justice system."

"Citizens in Peoria, Ill., were as bothered as the people here and in communities across the United States. In Peoria concerned leaders took action . . ."

"A witness information service was started five years ago with a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration . . . The program is now financed by the county and operated in the state attorney's office in Peoria County. Witnesses are contacted by telephone, oriented on the judicial process and the part they will play in it and offered transportation. A

volunteer stays near the courtroom to answer questions and to help witnesses get to the proper place.

"Currently witnesses who are helped by the program appear 58 percent of the time. The appearance rate is 41 percent for those who do not take part. Nineteen percent of the cases were dismissed, a recent study showed, in instances where the program contacted witnesses. The rate rose to 30 percent in cases in which contacts were not made . . ."

"Notification projects can help fill a huge, debilitating void in the justice system. Without witnesses and victims to testify, the prosecution of criminals is severely weakened . . ." —*Editorial, Kansas City, Mo., Star.*

EDUCATING JUDGES: "Once judges are appointed or elected to office, they have with rare exception a lifetime hold on the job . . ."

"Once on the bench, judges operate with considerable autonomy; whether they are good or bad judges depends largely on what they choose to do to keep abreast of changes in laws and courtroom procedures . . ."

"We believe strongly that judges should be encouraged to continue their judicial education and for that reason we applaud the Georgia Senate Judiciary Committee's decision to eliminate a House-passed limitation on how much judges can spend for continuing education." —*Editorial, The Atlanta Journal, Atlanta, Ga.*

MODERNIZING JUVENILE JUSTICE: "We're glad that a lobby of juvenile court judges has been unable to stop an important movement toward reform of the

juvenile justice system. The American Bar Association has endorsed all but one of the 20 volumes of recommendations produced by a special commission that for nine years has studied how youths are dealt with in the courts. The study was made on behalf of the association and the Institute of Judicial Administration. Its recommendations, which states are free to adopt or ignore, address every aspect of juvenile justice from the right to counsel to philosophy of punishment. We have reservations about some of the proposals, but on the whole the panel has made an extremely valuable contribution to modernizing the system . . ."

"Since their inception in the late 1800's, juvenile courts have considered themselves surrogate parents, capable of protecting both society and misguided children. They have usually dealt firmly with dangerous delinquents. But they have also shunted children who are only runaways off to reform schools, supposedly for their own good, and for terms as long as those meted out to youths who commit serious crimes. Since judges and probation officers claim to have each child's best interests at heart, defense counsel and normal rules of evidence have often been dispensed with . . ."

"Ultimately, policies on juvenile justice are the responsibility of state legislatures. The standards developed by Judge Kaufman's commission will be a great help to states that would bring their children's courts, even at this late date, into the 20th century." —*Editorial, The New York Times.*

Jury Duty Differs

(continued from page 6)

Another major difference in the two systems is the post-evaluation of the jury experience. All jurors in Montgomery County fill out a questionnaire when their one day or one trial is completed. No regular system of juror evaluation exists in Superior Court.

Not only are some of the most productive suggestions for improvements in jury systems available from the jurors themselves, studies have found that the very act of asking jurors for their opinions and observations regarding their experiences improves their attitudes about serving.

And, in the final analysis, isn't that what the system is aiming for—improved juror performance through convenience?

Pamela Taylor is a writer-editor for the Office of Justice Assistance, Research, and Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice.

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Key To A Safer Society

Inprison Habitual Offenders Who Commit Most Crime

The study found that 46 percent of the robbers, 46 percent of the assaults, and 60 percent of the auto thefts were repeat offenders.

Harry Bratt, acting director of the NIJ, said the study verifies previous research showing that a relatively small percentage of offenders commit a disproportionate number of crimes.

Prosecute Repeaters

He said a study by the Institute for Law and Social Research (INSLAW) showed that during a 56-month period (1971-75), 7 percent of the defendants accounted for 24 percent of the cases coming into the Superior Court in Washington, D.C.

"Since 1975, we have financed special units in 70 metropolitan areas to concentrate on prosecuting career criminals. It is becoming increasingly obvious that we can make our cities safer by prosecuting and incarcerating

these repeat offenders," Mr. Bratt said. "This new study reaffirms that we must try to devote an appropriate share of our limited criminal justice resources getting offenders off the street who in some cases are averaging more than a felony per week."

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) financed the INSLAW study. Patrick Langan, NIJ project monitor, emphasized the tentative nature of the Rand study findings.

"Information supplied by inmates

themselves is a valuable adjunct to official data," Mr. Langan noted, "but its limitations must be kept in mind. Some inmates may forget, or exaggerate, past criminal activities.

"These and other research questions

are being explored by Rand in the project's final phase. When the research is

completed next year, we will be in a better position to assess the crime reduction benefits of alternative imprisonment policies."

Approximately 90 percent of the inmates admitted to use of or addiction to drugs during the three years before their imprisonment. Most used heroin. The report said that drug use played a large role in property crime.

"Drug users reported substantially more property crime than did non-users," said the report, "and this relationship persists even after controlling for other personal characteristics." The survey said that offenders who reported committing many recent crimes were likely to have lengthy criminal records, as measured by the number of self-reported felony and misdemeanor convictions.

The report said offenders who did not work or seldom worked, and those holding a series of short-time jobs, tended to commit more crime, as did those who moved frequently from city to city.

Self-Concept A Factor

Studying the inmates' psychological characteristics, the survey said that criminal activity was strongly associated with self-concept.

"Sixty percent of the respondents indicated that before they were arrested, they thought of themselves as some type of criminal, e.g., a robber, a thief, a burglar," the report said. "In contrast, one-fourth of the respondents thought of themselves as noncriminals, 'straight.'"

The remaining 15 percent did not describe themselves either as criminals or solely as straights, "but chose some other socially deviant identity, e.g., drug user/addict, gang member."

Explaining their reasons for their principal crimes, 47 percent of the 624 felons said "economic distress" was their primary motivation. Thirty-five percent listed a desire for "high living," and 14 percent reported that "temper" was responsible.

Copies of the study, "Doing Crime:

A Survey of California Prison Inmates,"

are not yet available. Additional information is available from the National

Institute of Justice, 633 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531. ■



Crimes Started Early

This study drew this profile of the typical prison inmate who commits the bulk of the crime: a male who began committing crimes as early as 12 or 14 and reached a career peak in his early 20's. After tapering his activity until 30 when his career generally ended. He was heavily involved with drugs, both as a buyer and user, was unmarried, and usually unemployed. His motivation was mainly a desire for "high living."

The 624 inmates—all men—were granted anonymity to volunteer information about all crimes they had committed—whether or not they were arrested or convicted for them—during the three years before their imprisonment. They also were asked about their use of drugs, attitude towards crime, and their economic circumstances, and reported on their prior criminal records, their reasons for committing crime, and their perceptions of payoffs and penalties of doing

LEAA Credited With Supporting Innovations

City planners in 59 major cities credit the LEAA with improving coordination among criminal justice agencies at all levels of government and making it possible to create new, innovative local programs, according to a survey by the National League of Cities.

The survey report noted, "Many programs such as PROMIS (Prosecutors' Management Information System) and victim/witness assistance programs, which now are an accepted part of many cities' plans to combat crime, began as experimental efforts with grants from LEAA."

The cities surveyed also cited the LEAA-sponsored criminal justice coordinating councils as especially useful for exchanging information and planning future projects. Other benefits credited to LEAA included the improvement of a "systems" outlook in criminal justice, availability of equipment and training for police officers, and the establishment of guidelines and resources to enable localities to improve corrections.

These were among items on a questionnaire the League used to query the city planners by telephone. The survey was directed by the League's Criminal Justice Project, an information and education service on public safety for city officials. The project receives about \$190,000 yearly in LEAA funds.

Over-regulation Cited

Asked about problems with the LEAA program, the "almost universal complaint" concerned relationships with the state planning agencies, the report noted. State planning agencies receive the bulk of LEAA funds in block grants and administer the funds on a statewide basis.

"In particular," the report said, "they (local people) cite what they consider the state planning agencies' over-regulation and unrealistic guidelines. Local people also complain about the increasing amount of paperwork and forms required at both state and federal levels."

Cities surveyed have populations of more than 250,000 and have received LEAA funding for a variety of programs over the past 10 years. The survey asked about the agency's impact in

such areas as jury management and police officer safety; any major benefit to the city; whether the city has any of 15 "experimental" programs such as PROMIS; and any problems with the LEAA effort.

Sheila Sugarman, acting director of the project, said, "The purpose was to give us an idea of where LEAA was at a time (September 1979) when the agency's reauthorization legislation was pending. We wanted to see what the benefits were for cities. Nobody had ever studied this before. And because we represent cities, we were particularly interested in this aspect of LEAA."

The survey found that 54 of the 59 cities have a community crime prevention program and 45 have shelters for battered women. More than half also have programs dealing with career criminals, juvenile status offenders such as truants and runaways, victim

assistance, jury management, pretrial release, and prevention of sexual assault.

Most of the financing of the programs was from LEAA either as the sole source of funds or combined with local and state money.

Changes Wanted

Asked about change in the program, the cities said they want "coherent, consistent program guidance" at the federal and state levels and a stronger role for locals. Most felt that the partnership between cities and the federal government should be equal to the federal-state partnership. They also stressed the need for program evaluation.

Copies of the report, "Ten Years of LEAA," are available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

RECENT GRANTS

LEAA

- \$100,000 to the Florida State University Criminal Justice Training Center to provide technical assistance to state and local criminal justice planning agencies in eight southeastern states.

- \$900,000 to the Campus Community Involvement Center in Los Angeles to establish a community-based treatment program for young offenders.

- \$146,000 to the San Mateo, California, Police Department for the second phase of its Integrated Criminal Apprehension Program (ICAP).

- \$265,635 to O.D.N. Productions, Incorporated, of New York City to prepare counseling and training materials that will be used in working with wife-beaters.

- \$870,414 to the Better Boys Foundation of Chicago, Illinois, to create a community-based treatment program for young offenders.

- \$700,000 to the Model Committee Staff Project in Juvenile Justice, Denver, Colorado, to continue staffing LEGIS/50—model legislative committees in juvenile justice.

- \$70,000 to the Community Research Forum (CRF) of the University of Illinois, Champaign, to develop and study strategies for the removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups.

- \$176,779 to the Behavioral Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado, for the final phase of a three-year research program assessing delinquent behavior, including drug and alcohol use by youths.

NIJ

- \$248,500 to the American Justice Institute, Sacramento, California, to conduct a research project to analyze how staff size and the use of personnel affects the climate and operations of prisons.



Publications



Mathematical Criminology, by David F. Greenberg, is available from the Rutgers University Press. Price is \$19.50. To order write RUP, 30 College Ave., New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

Court Management Journal, second annual edition, sponsored by five professional court administrative organizations, is available from the National Center for State Courts. Price is \$5.00. To order write Secretariat Division, NCSC, 300 Newport Ave., Williamsburg, Va. 23185.

Third Annual Conference on Fire Research, summarizes the fire research activities of the National Bureau of Standards and may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service. Price is \$12.00. Order number is PB 30-110240. To order write NTIS, Springfield, Va. 22161.

Some Useful Notes Re: Investigative Accounting, by Robert F. Milne, and the **Insurance Fraud Manual**, a primer on investigation and prosecution, are both published by the National District Attorneys Association's Economic Crime Project. To order write Economic Crime Project, NDAA, 666 North Lake Shore Drive, Suite 1432, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Coloring Book Supply Limited

Help! OJARS Public Information is being swamped with requests for the "Play It Safe" coloring book described in the February issue of the *News*.

Because of the thousands of requests the office has received for the free book, the limit on copies is 200 per group. However, groups may reproduce as many copies of the coloring book as they need.

To order from one to 200 copies of the "Play It Safe" coloring book, write to OJARS Public Information, 633 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531.

Trends in Child Protection Laws—1979, prepared by the Education Commission of the States, analyzes child protection statutes in each state as enacted, amended, or revised through 1978. Price is \$2.50. To order write ECS, Suite 300, 1860 Lincoln St., Denver, Colo. 80295.

Community Crime Prevention: A Neighborhood Action Guide, developed by the Neighborhood-based Technologies Project with U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development funds, and published by the Civic Action Institute. Price is \$1.00. To order write CAI, 1010 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Directory of Correctional Institutions and Agencies, 1980 Edition, details the organizational structure of each state correctional system as well as the federal and Canadian systems; and **National Jail and Adult Detention Directory** lists all jails and detention facilities in the U.S. Each directory is priced at \$20.00. To order write Publications, American Correctional Association, 4321 Hartwick Rd., L-208, College Park, Md. 20740.

Federal-State Law Enforcement Committees (Sept. 1979), \$3.00; The

Structure of State Legal Services (Aug. 1979), \$4.50; **Organized Auto Theft** (July 1979), \$4.50; **Official Liability: Immunity Under Section 1983** (July 1979), \$5.00; and **Sovereign Immunity: The Tort Liability of Government and Its Officials** (Sept. 1979), \$5.00. Published by the Committee on the Office of Attorney General, National Association of Attorneys General. To order write Publications Dept., NAAG, 3901 Barrett Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

Training Manual Offered by ACA

The American Correctional Association (ACA) is offering a training package designed to increase employment opportunities for ex-offenders.

The Pre-Employment Training Curriculum introduces inmates to skills needed to cope with contemporary society and for locating and acquiring employment.

The curriculum was tested at four local jails from 1977 to 1979 by the Coordinated Community Offender Employment program, which was sponsored by the ACA and financed by an LEAA grant. It is designed for use in jails and other types of correctional settings, ranging from community-based institutions to prisons, and for juvenile as well as adult offenders.

Curriculum materials—**Program Manual** (\$11.00), **Teacher's Guide** (\$15.00), and the **Curriculum Set** (16 booklets, \$20.00)—are available from the Comprehensive Work Entry Program, American Correctional Association, 4321 Hartwick Road, Suite L-208, College Park, Md. 20740.



\$100,000 Grant Awarded

Forensic Toxicology Laboratories Evaluated

The National Institute of Justice has announced it will support a \$100,000 program to assess the performance of the nation's 200 forensic toxicology laboratories—generally a part of the medical examiner's or coroner's offices.

The program stems from the 1978 results of a test of 40 laboratories conducted by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in which 15 laboratories couldn't identify the commonly-prescribed drug Demerol in a blood sample, and another 15 incorrectly measured the amount of Demerol in the sample.

"The results of this test indicated that there was a marked disparity among the laboratories in the quality of their performance, and that a more thorough and rigorous assessment of the profession was needed," John O. Sullivan, manager of NIJ's Forensic Sciences Program, said.

Mr. Sullivan said forensic toxicologists perform three million post-mortem examinations annually to detect the presence of poisons, drugs, and chemicals.

"Forensic toxicologists interpret their findings in terms of the hazard they represent to the person involved, and present their views in expert testimony, written reports, and interpretations to the public, their associates, and the courts," said Mr. Sullivan.

"Obviously the possibility of an erroneous laboratory report is of great concern to the entire criminal justice system and the nation," he said.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the findings of forensic toxicologists figured prominently in two recent trials that evoked nationwide publicity: *State vs. Jascalevich* (New Jersey, 1976) and *State vs. Coppolino* (Florida, 1967).

great deal of controversy in those involved the test procedures used in interpretation of the data," said Sullivan.

he ultimate aim of this program is sure high performance levels in sic toxicology—a fundamental ation of justice in both civil and nal matters," he said.

der the competitive solicitation unced today, an agency or ization would be required to out-

line a proposal that would meet these objectives:

—Assess the analytical accuracy of forensic toxicology laboratories in detecting drugs and chemicals in selected specimens.

—Analyze those results.

—Prepare a series of recommendations.

—Construct a nationwide proficiency testing model for the laboratories.

Participation by the laboratories would be voluntary.

"We are most interested in upgrading the quality of forensic science

services in the criminal justice system," said Mr. Sullivan, "and assuring the American public of the equality of such services on a nationwide basis."

Two years ago, NIJ tested the nation's crime laboratories and discovered a wide variation in proficiency levels. It has since launched a program to correct those deficiencies, said Mr. Sullivan.

Additional information concerning the current announcement is available from Mr. Sullivan, Police Division, Office of Research Programs, NIJ, 633 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20531, (301) 492-9110. ■

Information Tool Effective

(continued from page 2)

many cases were disposed of in a preliminary hearing; how many before trial; how many during trial; the reasons for each disposition; the court's activity on the charges; and the results of all that capability to identify defendants with outstanding warrants and criminal records. We will be able to provide the courts with accurate background information for bonding purposes. We will be able to identify persons currently or previously on a deferred status and examine a defendant's current status prior to terminating deferment or probation. Finally, we will be able to monitor and enforce restitution orders and advise the courts of costs that should be imposed upon defendants.

To be meaningful, information generated by PROMIS must be explained in terms of solving or controlling problems of crime and improving the justice system. Each jurisdiction must identify the policies and procedures which are necessary and effective in dealing with general and specialized problems of crime within its own jurisdiction. The results will reflect the measure of success in solving those problems within that jurisdiction only. We must abandon the traditional "track record" comparisons illustrated earlier.

The same factual data base will be accumulated in every district attorney's office; but if we avoid the track-record concept, the data can be interpreted in terms of the prosecution philosophy, practice, and problems peculiar to each jurisdiction. We will be able to measure the results of varying policies and procedures on crime within that jurisdiction.

Some legitimate comparisons can be made with this information. For example, it would be fair to measure whether prosecutors are too strict or too lenient in accepting cases for filing. An evaluation could be made of the trial competency of the prosecutor's office and the investigative competency of police agencies. Deferred actions could be compared in terms of recidivism and restitution to victims. Comparisons also could be made on the time lapse between case filing and sentencing. There will be so many variations of so much information, that it would be senseless to try to describe all the possibilities.

From time to time comparisons will be made that will be awkward to explain. This is no more than occasionally occurs now, and should not raise any serious difficulties. Most importantly, we will have the capability to show the strengths and failings of the police, court, probation, and corrections functions, as well as prosecutors.

It is our obligation to see that the executive functions of criminal justice are carried out effectively. As the representatives of the executive branch of government in criminal justice, we also have the obligation to see that the judicial branch fulfills its duties responsibly. We can do it with PROMIS. ■

Violence Often Erupts Among Friends

Relatives and people who knew each other well were responsible for more than a fifth of the rapes, robberies, and assaults that occurred during a four-year study period from 1973 through 1976.

A National Crime Survey analysis has revealed that of 17.9 million attempted or completed violent incidents that occurred during the study period, 3.8 million (21 percent) happened between friends and/or relatives.

More than half of these incidents (55 percent) were not reported to law enforcement officials, according to the report issued by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). In the case of domestic disputes, privacy or the personal nature of the matter was the most common reason given for not reporting.

The analysis said that in 30 percent of the violent incidents involving intimates, the offenders displayed or used one or more weapons. A firearm was present in 9 percent of the cases.

An actual attack—when objects are thrown, weapons used, or victims physically abused—in some

other way—occurred in 60 percent of the incidents involving relatives or people who knew each other well.

About 40 percent of the attacks between people who were well acquainted resulted in injuries, of which 13 percent were serious enough to require medical care. About 10 percent required hospitalization or emergency room treatment, BJS said.

The report noted that work-time losses were relatively high for family violence, and commented that children were often a factor, especially among estranged couples, and that alcohol frequently contributed to acts of domestic violence.

The report is based on data generated by the National Crime Survey's semiannual interviews of about 476,000 occupants of some 60,000 homes across the nation.

Single copies of the report, "Intimate Victims: A Study of Violence Among Friends and Relatives," may be obtained by writing the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 9000, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

people people people

William A. Cohan has been appointed chief of the Division of Probation of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. As chief of the Probation Division, Mr. Cohan is responsible for the administrative support of the Federal Probation System.



Mr. Cohan has been assistant chief of the Division of Probation since 1963. He was originally appointed a U.S. probation officer in the Northern District of Ohio at Cleveland in September 1955. He is a graduate of the Ohio State University correctional program, and has studied

social administration at the Ohio State University Graduate School.

John A. Dixon, Jr., has been elected chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Mr. Dixon served as an associate justice of the Second Supreme Court District since January 1971. From 1968 to 1971, he served two terms on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He was elected district judge in 1957 and re-elected twice. Mr. Dixon also served as an assistant district attorney, and from 1954 to 1957 he was in private practice.

Nominees Wanted For Crime Prevention Awards

The Crime Prevention Coalition is presenting Citizen Awards to recognize outstanding leadership in local and state crime prevention programs.

In addition, individuals who have made particularly outstanding contributions will be given Special Awards during what will become an annual presentation ceremony.

The Crime Prevention Coalition is composed of business, religious, civic, and law enforcement organizations. It is conducting a National Citizen's Crime Prevention Campaign to help citizens to better protect themselves and their communities against crime through individual and collective action.

Consideration for the awards will be given to people who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in developing citizen participation in crime prevention programs. Such factors as innovative approaches to crime prevention, effective use of volunteers, and degree of community involvement will be weighed in determining an award.

To nominate someone, send his or her name, address, and telephone number along with a 250 to 500-word supporting statement to: the Crime Prevention Coalition, 20 Banta Place, Hackensack, N.J. 07601. Include your name and address with the nomination.

TAKE A BITE OUT OF

Ad Council

Management Training Offered Senior Police Executives

The Police Executive Research Forum and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration have announced a new program to provide senior police managers with the type of education and training available at the nation's best graduate-level business and public administration schools.

"Many of the most productive managers in business and government benefit from the first-rate education provided by business schools affiliated with major universities," according to Homer F. Broome, Jr., LEAA acting administrator, and Bruce R. Baker, forum president and chief of police of Portland, Ore.

"The program we are announcing today will make available to senior managers who someday will be police chiefs elements of the best management education and training now being offered at university professional schools."

The goal of the program is to provide senior police managers with up-to-date tested concepts and practices used in business and government. "The current demand to increase police productivity, to work within severe municipal fiscal restraints, and to provide greater levels of service require a sophisticated, tough management professionalism which this new program seeks to enhance," Mr. Broome and Mr. Baker said.

The program, The Senior Management Institute for Police, offers a demanding four-week course taught by faculty from some of the nation's top university business and public administration schools. Applicants for the 40 appointments to the institute must occupy a senior management position in their police agencies involving significant responsibility for police development and interpretation, supervision of personnel, and responsibility for carrying out various department functional activities; have the potential for promotion to the position of police chief in their agency or another urban police agency; and be willing and able to participate actively in and benefit from an intensive management education experience.

Applications will be reviewed by an independent selection committee made up of a police chief executive, a criminal justice educator, a member of the institute faculty, and an expert in management training.

Additional information and course schedules are available from PERF, 1909 K Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20006, (202) 833-1399.



These three Frederick County (Md.) vocational center students presented a report on their shoplifting prevention campaign to OJARS Acting Director Henry S. Dogin. The students, (left to right) Marianne Houck, Donna May, and Lisa Sanders, and their counselor, Candy S. Zenk, are members of the Frederick County chapter of the Distributive Education Clubs of America which, with the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the American Retail Federation, launched a major drive to prevent shoplifting losses. The project, now in place in the 50 states, is financed with a \$245,698 LEAA grant and is modeled on a program implemented by the Georgia Retail Association to reduce teenage shoplifting. Shoplifting, accounting for losses of about \$8 billion annually, is the nation's largest monetary crime.

FBI Commended For Improved Investigation

Three national law enforcement organizations have adopted a resolution commending the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its intensified efforts to combat white-collar and organized crime.

The National Sheriffs' Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the Police Executive Research Forum commended the FBI for its intensified investigation of organized and white-collar crime and its commitment of greater resources and innovative techniques to resolving these sophisticated crimes.

The three organizations pledged to support the FBI's efforts and resolved to redouble their joint cooperative efforts to combat these crimes.

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May 19-21: Seminar on the Use of Deadly Force, Evanston, Ill., sponsored by the Traffic Institute, Northwestern University. Contact: Registrar, TI, NU, 555 Clark St., Evanston, Ill. 60204.

June 5-6: Collective Bargaining with Firefighters Unions Workshop, Hartford, Conn., and **June 10-11:** Police Collective Bargaining Techniques Workshop, Nashville, Tenn., both sponsored by the Service Program on Employer-Employee Relations of the National League of Cities. Contact: NLC-SPEER, 1620 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, 202/293-7310.

June 5-8: Women in Crisis Second Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. Contact: WIC, 444 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10016, 212/686-1942.

June 9-27: Organized Crime Investigations Course; **July 7-18:** Advanced Surveillance Techniques Course; and **July 14-18:** Coordinating Rackets Investigations Course, all held in Miami, Fla., and sponsored by the Institute on Organized Crime. Contact: IOC, 16400 N.W. 32nd Ave., Miami, Fla. 33054, 305/625-2438.

June 9-13: Protective Services: Meeting the Clandestine Threat Workshop, Washington, D.C.; **June 9-13:** Crime Analysis Workshop, Kansas City, Mo.; **June 9-13:** Police Records and Communications Workshop, Atlantic City, N.J.; **June 16-19:** The Police Executive and the Law Workshop, Cambridge, Mass.; **June 16-20:** Management of the Intelligence Function Workshop, Washington, D.C.; **June 23-26:** Police Discipline Workshop, Salt Lake City, Utah; **July 14-18:** Physical Fitness Programs for Police Workshop, Houston, Texas; **July 14-18:** Developing Administrative Staff Skills Workshop, Canton, Ohio; **July 21-25:** Allocation and Distribution of Police Manpower Workshop, Cambridge, Mass.; and **July 21-25:** Police Labor Relations Workshop, Nashville, Tenn., all sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Contact: IACP, 11 Firstfield

Rd., Gaithersburg, Md. 20760, 800/638-4085, ext. 208.

June 16-20: Constitutional Criminal Procedure Seminar, Cambridge, Mass.;

July 7-11: Citizen Judges Academy, Boulder, Colo.; and **July 7-18:** Trial Judges Academy, Boulder, Colo., all sponsored by the American Academy of Judicial Education. Contact: AAJE, 539 Woodward Bldg., 1426 H St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, 202/783-5151.

June 16-20: Managing Criminal Investigations Workshop, and **July 14-18:** Internal Affairs Workshop, both held in Dallas, Texas, and sponsored by the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute. Contact: Donald T. Shanahan, Director, SWLEI, P.O. Box 707, Richardson, Texas 75080, 214/690-2370.

June 16-25: 25th Annual Juvenile Officers Institute, Minneapolis, Minn., sponsored by the Office of Delinquency Control, University of Minnesota. Contact: Richard J. Glendenen, Director, Juvenile Officers Institute, Univ. of Minn., 119 TNM, 122 Pleasant St., S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55455.

June 18-21: Strengthening the Executive Component of the Court Seminar, Aspen, Colo.; **July 5-Aug. 2:** Management in the Courts and Justice Environment Seminar, Snowmass, Colo.; and **July 20-25:** Management for Justice System Supervisors Seminar, Aspen, Colo., all sponsored by the Institute for Court Management. Contact: ICM, 1624 Market St., Suite 210, Denver, Colo. 80202, 303/534-3063.

June 22-26: Terrorism in the 1980s Workshop, Chicago, Ill., sponsored by North Mountain Pines Training Center. Contact: Richard W. Kobetz and Associates, NMPTC, Route 2, Box 342, Winchester, Va. 22601, 703/662-7288.

June 23-27: Child Abuse Seminar, San Diego, Calif., sponsored by the Delinquency Control Institute, University of Southern California. Contact: DCI,

Child Abuse Seminar, Tyler Bldg., 3601 South Flower St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90007, 213/741-2497.

June 30-July 11: Intermediate Appellate Judges Seminar, and **July 14-**

15: Senior Appellate Judges Seminar, both held in New York City, and sponsored by the Institute of Judicial Administration, New York University School of Law. Contact: Mrs. Gerry Hansen, IJA, NYUSL, 1 Washington Square Village, New York, N.Y. 10012.

July 7-9: Arson Management Workshop, Louisville, Ky., sponsored by the Southern Police Institute. Contact: SPI, School of Police Administration, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, Ky. 40208.

July 10-11: Fundraising for Community-Based Youth Programs, Seattle, Wash., sponsored by the National Youth Work Alliance. Contact: NYWA, Room 502, 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 202/785-0764.

July 13-16: Eleventh Annual Conference on School Violence and Vandalism, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., sponsored by the National Association of School Security Directors. Contact: Joseph Grealy, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent for Internal Affairs, Broward County School Board, 1320 Southwest 4 St., Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33312, 305/765-6201.

July 14-19: National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives Annual Conference and Expo '81, Baltimore, Md. Contact: NOBLE, Attn: B. L. Robinson, Conference Chairman, 601 E. Fayette St., Baltimore, Md. 21202, 301/396-2080.

July 14-24: Third Annual International Law Enforcement Divers Institute, Marquette, Mich., sponsored by the Criminal Justice Training Center of Northern Michigan University. Contact: Robert Hanson, CJTC, 104 Pierce Hall, NMU, Marquette, Mich. 49855, 906/227-2582.

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New Mexico State Penitentiary

Computerized Records Solve Problems In Riot Aftermath

As the smoke cleared after the rioting at the New Mexico State Penitentiary in February, officials were faced with the enormous task of identifying and processing inmates. Fires had destroyed the institution's record center and all its contents.

Fortunately, New Mexico had automated its inmate records through the BJS-sponsored Offender-Based State Corrections Information System (OBSCIS).

An operator at New Mexico's central data processing authority in Santa Fe, after being notified of the riot and possible danger to the prison's record system, severed the teleprocessing links between the penitentiary and the central system to save the data base.

"In the days and weeks that followed, the Offender-Based State Corrections Information

System was relied on completely to account for inmates and to provide answers rapidly to questions about inmates' locations," Michael Banks, deputy secretary of the New Mexico Criminal Justice Department, said.

"The system responded without failure to more than 200 special requests for data and reports. The system thus served as the cornerstone of our efforts to re-establish prison security."

OBSCIS traces offenders from the moment they enter prison. It tracks their movement through the system, provides discharge or parole eligibility dates, reports on disciplinary incidents, helps monitor and evaluate rehabilitation programs, and facilitates the exchange of information among states and the federal government.

It also assists in projecting prison populations, statistical analysis, and program evaluation.

The OBSCIS program, begun by LEAA in 1974, has given the states \$12.8 million in grants and technical assistance. The states have paid \$1.2 million. Fourteen states, including New Mexico, now fund OBSCIS locally. The system covers 75 percent of the nation's prison population—some 208,000 inmates.

"While we never suspected that the system would ever be put to such a test, the takeover incident illustrates amply how valuable OBSCIS has become," Mr. Banks said.

"We're grateful to LEAA for urging New Mexico along the path toward automation of inmate records."